

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 22785 100734Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----023700 100805Z /21
P 100333Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9087
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 22785

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, EAID, PREP, VM, CB, CH, US
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE COMMENTS ON SRV-U.S. RELATIONS
AND KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM

REF BANGKOK 22674

SUMMARY: DURING VISIT BY KENNEDY STAFFDEL TINKER, SENIOR
VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG,
SAID THAT HANOI WAS PREPARED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS
WITH THE U.S. WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS. PREMIER DONG
ALSO TOLD THE STAFFDEL THAT THE U.S. HAD A LEGITIMATE
ROLE TO PLAY IN SE ASIA. SRV OFFICIALS SEEMED PREOCCUPIED
WITH THE PROBLEM OF KAMPUCHEA AND PREPARED TO USE MILITARY
FORCE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. KENNEDY STAFFER JERRY TINKER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR
AUGUST 8 THAT DURING A ONE HOUR DISCUSSION WITH SRV
PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG, THE PREMIER MADE THREE POINTS
CONCERNING THE UNITED STATES:

(A) THE U.S. HAS A LEGITIMATE AND IMPORTANT ROLE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 22785 100734Z

PLAY IN SE ASIA, AND IT MUST PLAY THAT ROLE (UNDEFINED).

(B) VIETNAM IS PREPARED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS.

(C) VIETNAM WILL BE AS HELPFUL AS IT CAN BE ON ALL
HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN WHICH THE
DELEGATION HAS AN INTEREST.

2. ONLY THE HEAD OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION IN MFA MENTIONED THE U.S. TRADE EMBARGO. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD CONTINUE THE TRADE EMBARGO AGAINST VIETNAM WHEN IT EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 14, AN ACTION WHICH WOULD BE REGARDED AS VINDICTIVE BY VIETNAM.

3. VIETNAM ROLLED OUT THE RED CARPET FOR THE DELEGATION, PERMITTING THE MEMBERS TO MOVE AROUND AS THEY WISHED. DEPUTY FONMIN PHAN HIEN SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME WITH THEM. THE VIETNAMESE WERE VERY RECEPTIVE TO ANYTHING WHICH THE DELEGATION WISHED TO DO, TINKER TOLD US.

4. ARCHBISHOP HANNAN WAS IMPRESSED STRONGLY WITH THE VIETNAMESE DESIRE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT VIETNAM WANTED NOT ONLY NORMALIZATION BUT RECONCILIATION WITH THE U.S. THE VIETNAMESE WERE VERY POINTED IN INDICATING TO HIM THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO BECOME OVERLY DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIET UNION. AT DINNER, FONMIN NGUYEN DUY TRINH WHISPERED IN THE ARCHBISHOP'S EAR, "WE DO NOT WANT TO DEPEND ON ONE POWER," WHICH THE ARCHBISHOP INTERPRETED TO MEAN EITHER CHINA OR THE SOVIET UNION.

5. THE DELEGATION FOUND THE VIETNAMESE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE PROBLEM OF KAMPUCHEA. THEY SEEMED AT A LOSS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 22785 100734Z

FOR A MEANS TO RESOLVE THE BORDER PROBLEM. BOTH TINKER AND THE ARCHBISHOP CONCLUDED THAT HANOI WOULD NOT RELENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE POL POT REGIME. THE ARCHBISHOP WAS CONVINCED THAT THE VIETNAMESE BELIEVE THAT ONLY MILITARY FORCE WILL ENABLE THEM TO TOPPLE THE PHNOM PENH REGIME AND THAT HANOI IS PREPARED TO UTILIZE SUCH FORCE TO END THE CURRENT KAMPUCHEAN ADMINISTRATION. AT THE SAME TIME, HE FELT THAT HANOI WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, BUT THE VIETNAMESE DO NOT ANTICIPATE SUCH A RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT. TINKER FOUND THE VIETNAMESE SOMEWHAT BEWILDERED AND FRIGHTENED BY THE ATTITUDE OF THE PRC AND AT SOMETHING OF A LOSS AS TO HOW TO HANDLE THEIR PROBLEM WITH PEKING.

6. ON AUGUST 9 TINKER AND DCM MADE A COURTESY CALL ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER WONG. IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH WONG, TINKER AGAIN INDICATED THAT PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG HAD MADE CLEAR SRV WILLINGNESS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS. WONG NOTED THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO VIETNAM SENIOR VIETNAMESE OFFICERS EXPRESSED THEIR HOPE FOR EARLY NORMALIZATION

WITH THE U.S. WONG NOTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE INTERESTED IN U.S. COMPANY INVOLVEMENT IN OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION. WONG TOLD TINKER AND DCM THAT HE HAS THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT VIETNAMESE POLICY TOWARDS THE USG AND OTHERS, INCLUDING THAILAND, HAS UNDERGONE A MAJOR CHANGE.

7. WE WILL REPORT ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE STAFFDEL BY SEPTTEL. ABRAMOWITZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO22785
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780327-0368
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780876/aaaacgfg.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 77b45b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 BANGKOK 22674
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1773377
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE COMMENTS ON SRV-U.S. RELATIONS AND KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, EAID, VM, CB, CH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77b45b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014